

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A contents providing service system for providing a contents file from a server apparatus to a client apparatus, wherein:

the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment;

the server apparatus operable to set use restriction information for all contents of the contents file and includes a supply unit for supplying the contents file to the client apparatus; and

the client apparatus includes:

a decode unit for decoding the contents and the use restriction information, which are contained in the contents file supplied from the server apparatus; and

a contents use restriction unit for allowing a utilization of the contents based on the decoded use restriction information,

wherein the contents represent at least one music program that is subdivided into parts selected from the group consisting of music parts and phrases and the use restriction

information represents the use prohibit ranges of the music parts and phrases, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

2. (Original) A contents providing service system according to claim 1, wherein the client apparatus includes a use request unit for transmitting, to the server apparatus, a use request for requesting a use of the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit range; the server apparatus includes a use approve unit for transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus when a use fee responding to the use request is paid in response to the user request; and the use restriction unit of the client apparatus allows to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

3. (Currently Amended) A server apparatus for supplying a contents file to a client apparatus, wherein the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment; the server apparatus includes a supply unit for supplying the contents file to the client apparatus; and the server apparatus is operable to set use restriction information for all contents of the contents file and allows the client apparatus to use the contents based on the use restriction information, wherein the contents represent at least one music program that is subdivided into parts selected from the group consisting of music parts and phrases and the use restriction information represents the use prohibit ranges of the music

parts and phrases, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

4. (Original) The server apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the contents include a plurality of partial contents which are mutually related to each other; and the use restrict information represents the use prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The server apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the server apparatus includes a use approve unit for receiving a use request for requesting a use of the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit range from the client apparatus, and for transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus when a use fee responding to the use request is paid in response to the user request; and the server apparatus allows the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

7. (Original) The server apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the contents correspond to music information.

8. (Currently Amended) A contents supplying method for providing a contents file from a server apparatus to a client apparatus, wherein the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment, the contents supplying method comprising the steps of: supplying the contents file to the client apparatus; and allowing the client apparatus to use the contents based on the use restrict information, wherein the contents represent at least one music program that is subdivided into parts selected from the group consisting of music parts and phrases and the use restriction information represents the use prohibit ranges of the music parts and phrases, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof and wherein the server apparatus is operable to set use restriction information for all contents of the contents file.

9. (Original) The contents supplying method according to claim 8, wherein the contents include a plurality of partial contents which are mutually related to each other; and the use restrict information represents the use prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The contents supplying method according to claim 8, wherein the contents supplying method comprises the steps of: receiving a use request for requesting a use of the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit range from the client apparatus; transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus when a use fee responding to the use request is paid in response to the user request; and allowing the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

12. (Original) The contents supplying method according to claim 8, wherein the contents correspond to music information.

13. (Currently Amended) A client apparatus for utilizing a contents file supplied from a server apparatus, wherein the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment; the client apparatus includes: a decode unit for decoding the contents and the use restriction information, which are contained in the contents file supplied from the server apparatus; and a contents use restriction unit for allowing a utilization of the contents based on the decoded use restriction information, wherein the contents represent at least one music program that is subdivided into parts selected from the group consisting of music parts and phrases and the use restriction

information represents the use prohibit ranges of the music parts and phrases, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof and wherein the server apparatus is operable to set use restriction information for all contents of the contents file.

14. (Original) The client apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the contents include a plurality of partial contents which are mutually related to each other; and the use restrict information represents the use prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The client apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the server apparatus includes a use approve unit for receiving a use request for requesting a use of the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit range from the client apparatus, and for transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus when a use fee responding to the use request is paid in response to the user request; and the server apparatus allows the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

17. (Original) The client apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the contents correspond to music information.

18. (Currently Amended) A contents utilizing method for utilizing a contents file supplied from a server apparatus, wherein the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment, the contents utilizing method comprising the steps of: decoding the contents and the use restriction information, which are contained in the contents file supplied from the server apparatus; and allowing a utilization of the contents based on the decoded use restriction information, wherein the contents represent at least one music program that is subdivided into parts selected from the group consisting of music parts and phrases and the use restriction information represents the use prohibit ranges of the music parts and phrases, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof and wherein the server apparatus is operable to set use restriction information for all contents of the contents file.

19. (Original) The contents utilizing method according to claim 18, wherein the contents include a plurality of partial contents which are mutually related to each other; and the use restrict information represents the use prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The contents utilizing method according to claim 18, wherein the contents supplying method comprises the steps of: receiving a use request for requesting a use of the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit range from the client apparatus; transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus when a use fee responding to the use request is paid in response to the user request; and allowing the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

22. (Original) The contents utilizing method according to claim 18, wherein the contents correspond to music information.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium on which a contents utilizing program for utilizing a contents file supplied from a server apparatus is recorded, wherein the contents file corresponds to a file including contents and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the contents, a use allow range of the contents and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the contents file is conditional on a user fee payment, the contents utilizing program is used to cause a computer to execute the steps of: decoding the contents and the use restriction information, which are contained in the contents file supplied from the server apparatus; and allowing a utilization of the contents based on the decoded use restriction information, wherein the contents represent at least

one music program that is subdivided into parts selected from the group consisting of music parts and phrases and the use restriction information represents the use prohibit ranges of the music parts and phrases, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof and wherein the server apparatus is operable to set use restriction information for all contents of the contents file.

24. (Original) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 23, wherein the contents include a plurality of partial contents which are mutually related to each other; and the use restrict information represents the use prohibit ranges of the plurality of partial contents, the use allow ranges thereof, and the provisional use prohibit ranges thereof.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 23, wherein the contents utilizing program is used to cause a computer to execute the steps of: receiving a use request for requesting a use of the contents contained in the provisional use prohibit range from the client apparatus; transmitting a use approval to the client apparatus when a use fee responding to the use request is paid in response to the user request; and allowing the client apparatus to use the contents which are requested to be used in accordance with the use approval.

27. (Original) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 23, wherein the contents correspond to music information.

28. (Previously Presented) A content providing service system for providing a content file from a server apparatus to a client apparatus, wherein:

the content file corresponds to a file including content and use restriction information which are encrypted, and the use restriction information indicates a use prohibit range of the content, a use allow range of the content and a provisional use prohibit range in which allowing a utilization of the content file is conditional on a user fee payment;

the server apparatus is operable to set use restriction information for all contents of the contents file and includes a supply unit for supplying the content file to the client apparatus; and

the client apparatus includes:

a decode unit for decoding the content and the use restriction information, which are contained in the content file supplied from the server apparatus; and

a content use restriction unit for allowing a utilization of the content based on the decoded use restriction information,

wherein the content is expressed for one form of use and the system includes a media conversion block that converts the content for forms of use different than said one form of use, based on the use restriction information.